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WRL NEWS

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THE SUMMER & FALL OFFENSIVE
by David McReynolds

The two national coalitions have held their major meetings and laid their plans for the summer and fall. The Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice met in Milwaukee, June 25-27. Ralph DiGia and I represented the WRL national office, and a number of WRL members were there as part of the total of 1100 delegates. A week later the National Peace Action Coalition met in New York City with more than 2000 delegates and an observer from WRL was present. WRL has from the beginning related itself to the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice, because that coalition is willing to support nonviolent civil disobedience and because its program covers a wider range of issues than simply peace.

The first, and in many ways the most exciting fact is that the Peoples Coalition has survived and is slowly developing a sense of being a movement, one that brings blacks and whites, men and women, pacifists, and both new and old leftists together in an effort to find a program for the democratic transformation of American society. This was "Milwaukee Three"—the first Conference in Milwaukee, held in June of 1970, nearly flew apart from mutual suspision, a lack of trust between blacks and whites, between those on welfare and those from the middle class. "Milwaukee Two," held later in 1970, was even worse. And yet, thanks to the work and the courage of people like Dave Dellinger, Sid Peck, Brad Lyttle, William Douthard, and many others, the coalition survived, mounted the powerful Spring Offensive that climaxed in 13,500 arrests in Washington during the last week of April and the first week of May. And now, after a full year from its beginnings at "Milwaukee One," the Peoples Coalition for Peace and Justice seems on its way toward building the local roots needed to make it a viable new force for nonviolent change within America.

But no less exciting was the fact that, despite basic conflicts, the Peoples Coalition and the National Peace Action Coalition agreed on a joint calendar for fall actions. There were exchange delegations from NPAC at the Peoples Coalition conference, and from the Peoples Coalition at the NPAC conference.

As a result of discussion between the two groups, and with the strong help of trade union leaders such as David Livingston (District 65, National Council of Distributive Workers), Abe Feinglass (Meat Cutters) and Moe Foner (Local 1199, Drug and Hospital Un-

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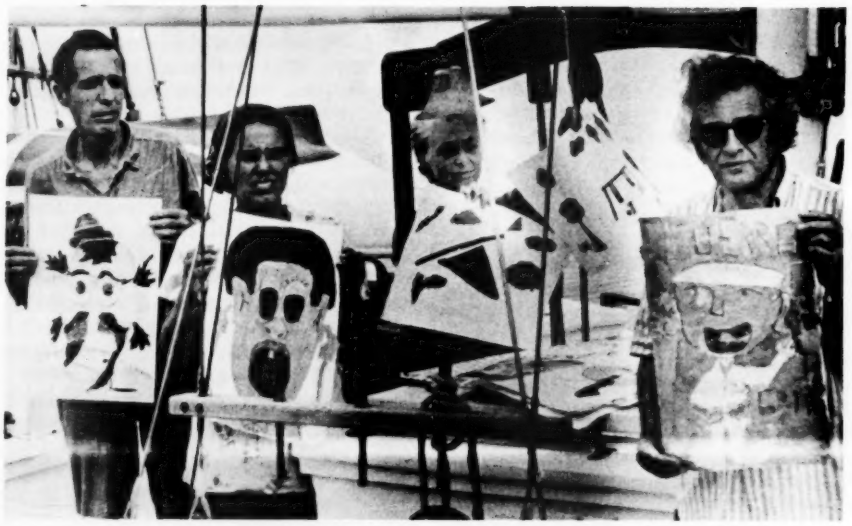
A PING PONG-STYLE JOURNEY TO CUBA
by Jim Peck



Here are (from right to left) Ed Gottlieb, Edna Coleman, Sally Willoughby and I showing to reporters in Key West some of the 50 Cuban children's paintings we had received in exchange for U.S. children's paintings which we had delivered to Havana. We are standing on deck of the Mondcivitano (World Citizen), Scott Herrick's 47-foot ketch aboard which we made the journey. Not shown in this photo are Scott and the sixth crew member, Denis Adelsberger.

Our goodwill journey was similar in spirit to that of the U.S. ping pong team to China—but with an important difference. In the latter case, the initiative had been taken by government—the Chinese government—whose invitation was accepted officially by the U.S. government. In our case, the initiative had been taken by civilians—specifically by Scott who thought-up the idea, by the WRL staff and executive committee members who decided to translate the idea into reality and by staff member Wendy Schwartz, who worked fulltime on it and set up exhibitions of the U.S. children's art work. (She now is planning similar exhibitions of the Cuban children's art work.) Though representatives of the U.S. State Department and of the Cuban government approved the project in conferring with our group, they both declined to give it official sanction. So we sailed without U.S. passports, which are invalid for Cuba and without Cuban visas. Our only identification was

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SUMMER-FALL OFFENSIVE—con't

ion), the two coalitions propose the following joint calendar.

August 6-9—Nationwide observance of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with special emphasis on the Bangla Desh tragedy, protesting continuing U.S. arms shipments to Pakistan. Also the leader of the South Vietnam Student Union—Huyn Tan Mam is to be brought to trial at this time for his peace actions in South Vietnam and demonstrations can be organized in his defense.

October 13—A nationwide National Moratorium to cease business as usual, to urge all schools and colleges to close, to urge workers to ask for at least part of the day off, to urge that businesses close down. Pacifists may organize widely decentralized civil disobedience aimed at government offices across the nation

November 6-8—A series of massive regional anti-war rallies to be held in as many as a dozen cities, seeking to duplicate regionally the great mass rallies in San Francisco and Washington D.C. on April 24. Most of these rallies will occur on Saturday, November 6. On November 7 the Peoples Coalition will begin a "March for Life" in Washington D.C., climaxing in massive nonviolent action Monday, November 8.

In addition, the Peoples Coalition is taking responsibility on its own to give strong support to the National Welfare Rights Organization sometime during *the first week of September,* in opposition to the disgracefully inadequate family assistance plan being pushed by Nixon. (This is the FAP program which would provide families of four with $2,400 a year.) Also, the May Day group plans nonviolent actions for October 14 and 15—but the nature of these has not yet been defined, since the May Day group will not have its tribal gathering until August.

There is also consideration being given to actions on Veterans Day—October 25—and we will report on these plans as they become clearer.

The main dates to set aside now are Wednesday, October 13, and the weekend of November 6-8. More material will be coming out—buttons, posters, speakers, etc. We continue to demand U.S. withdrawal by December 31. With 73% of the American public favoring our withdrawal, we think it might be possible to multiply the force of the Spring Offensive and compel the Nixon Administration to act now to terminate the killing.

JOURNEY TO CUBA—con't

special world citizen passports designed by Scott.

We arrived in Havana May 20 after a 13-hour sail across from Key West. A pilot boat escorted us to the immigration station dock. Health and immigration officials who came aboard were visibly surprised and somewhat amused by the unconventional arrival of our uninvited vessel, but none of them were in any way hostile. We were able to communicate since Denis speaks fluent Spanish and Edna and I, elementary Spanish. Following the inspection, we were boarded by four Cuban sailors, one of whom piloted us to a temporary anchorage about 15 miles east of the harbor. We still had no inkling of whether or not we would be permitted to land. An hour or so later, we were boarded by another sailor who was to pilot us to nearby Barlovento where we were to dock. However, we never did because, near the approach to the first buoy, he tried to make a shortcut and grounded the Mondcivitano on the rocks.

Another boat was just astern of us and our pilot used a megaphone to transmit our SOS to its pilot. That boat disappeared from sight and we passed an agonizing hour or so waiting in vain for help. Darkness was falling, the tide was receding and the intermittant cracking of the keel against the rocks became more strident. Finally a rescue boat came out, but was unable to dislodge the Mondcivitano. By then it was completely dark and the salvage effort appeared futile. A small boat picked us up and took us to the dock.

There, we met for the first time Leopoldo Perez Galvez of the Immigration Department, who was to be in charge of us for the duration of our stay and who turned out to be a warmly human person. He spoke fluent English. He was genuinely sorry about the grounding and assured us that next day a seagoing tug would arrive from a hundred miles away to dislodge the boat. It then would be taken to a boatyard and repaired completely. Despite his assurances, some of us wondered whether the salvage would be accomplished before the Mondcivitano cracked-up on the rocks. We could see it from the dock, listing increasingly to starboard and we still had in our ears the weird sound of the keel banging against the rocks. But the seagoing tug did arrive next day and with heavy lines and winch pressure got the vessel off the rocks even before full high tide.

Our Time Ashore

For the five days it took to repair the boat, we were taken ashore with all expenses paid—first to the Hotel Deauville in Havana and then to the International Hotel in Varadero, a beach resort about 100 miles eastward.

While in Havana, Galvez, together with Roberto Martinez of the Education Department, took us to visit La Ceiba, a beautiful, newly-constructed boarding school some 25 miles west of Havana, where students from 11 to 17 study and at the same time learn farming. They go home for weekends and holidays. To date there are five such new schools and hopefully they eventually will be all over the country. We brought some of the U.S. children's artwork and they gave us some Cuban children's paintings in return. After an inspection tour, we participated in a question-and-answer session attended by both faculty and students. Ed, who for many years was a junior high school principal and Edna, who was a teacher were especially qualified for this session. One of the questions of greatest concern to the students was how the refugee children are faring in the U.S. and whether they face any kind of discrimination. The school's director, although only 24, had been teaching for seven years and obviously was very dedicated.

Education seems to be a number one priority in Cuba. In driving through the Vedado section of Havana on our way to La Ceiba, we observed that most of the former private mansions now are school facilities or student residences.

On May 26 we were told that repairs on the Mondcivitano had been completed and we were requested to depart. Scott asked for and obtained an additional day to prepare the boat for the return trip to Key West. Galvez delivered to the Mondcivitano the Cuban childen's artwork which Martinez had gathered for us and expressed the latter's regret that he had been unable to collect more in the short time available. He explained that a government boat would escort us to the 12-mile limit to insure that we would not be halted by Cuban naval patrols.

We asked him whether the Cuban government wouldn't stamp our world citizen passports as they would a legally recognized passport. After making inquiries, he said this would not be possible and proceeded to express his, or possibly his department's attitude toward us.

"You know, as well as I do, that your presence in Cuba has no legality. Nevertheless, we feel that you are persons of good will trying to do something good in your country and so we have allowed you to enter."

I can think of no nation, east or west, which would have adopted such a flexible attitude in the face of legalities.

XUM

ORGANIZING NOTES
by Jerry Coffin

Local organizing for the WRL is nothing more or less than a member deciding to *do it*. The fact is that local organizing is not something limited to centers of radicalism. Organizers don't even need a "liberal core" to begin. The following reports from WRL-Southwest, Turner WRL in Turner, Main and Oklahoma WRL show that meaningful work can be done anywhere there is a WRL member.

* * *

In a recent letter reporting on the regional ond local work of WRL-Southwest, Craig Simpson included the following observations on local organizing: "Our definition of regional traveling is in terms of the development of centers throughout the Southwest. We are a collective of people here in Albuquerque who share all money we earn and evenly distribute the work load. Therefore everyone of us shares in the work and the traveling.

"Literature is extremely scarce in the Southwest and just as difficult to sell. Sometimes we give free material in bulk to growing action centers. Films too are scarce in this area. When a film is available we share it with other action centers, each one sending it on to another. The film, *Time Is Running Out*, made by the May Day Tribe, was bought for Spring organizing and used extensively, a sound investment in our judgment. Speakers are also used extensively. Jerry Coffin, Igal Roodenko, Tom Cornell, and others recently were share with our friends. We find speaking tours an extremely important way of organizing. We also have held some events which helped pull things together here: A Meal for Peace which was attended by about 300 people, a weekend session on nonviolence (very successful with people from as far away as San Antonio), a weekend session on the counterculture in Los Alamos with atomic scientists (attended by eight WRL organizers), a temporary center for Gay, Women's Liberation, Veterans Against the War and others was set up during the invasion of Laos. In addition a People's Peace Treaty Center was set up in Soccaro.

"Four local WRL groups have organized in our region in the last six months. They're in Norman, Oklahoma, Ft. Worth, Texas, Austin, Texas, and Soccaro, New Mexico. So . . . where are we now? We developed more centers than before, we supplied more material to more places. But some things were bad. Not seeing those individuals or groups enough—because of problems of cars (gas, repairs, whether or not we would get one—we presently have no car), failure of secure contacts—some contacts leaving before we get to know others in the community; events nationally like Laos, and preparation for May Day activities; and the present limit of the staff people.

"Money is difficult to come by. An example is defense for the six people who noncooperated out of the twenty arrested blocking Kirtland-Sandia Military Reservation. The defense fund raised a grand total of six dollars. The Free Store in Albuquerque well used by the community here has trouble getting its monthly rent of $75. We haven't put out a mailing since late February because of lack of funds.

"How about the future? We would like to begin to develop more centers, Eastern and Southern New Mexico, West Texas, Oklahoma (could be done by WRL-Norman), Southern Colorado, Utah, and Arizona. Other things to do are: film and literature distribution, speakers tours, Southwest coordinated actions (already being discussed for August), and conferences, a number of weekend sessions on nonviolence with local action centers, and possibly a Southwest nonviolent newsletter or paper."

* * *

Local organizing is really a growing process. Charles Dingman is a WRL organizer in Turner, Maine. In a recent letter he outlined the beginning of the Turner WRL. "Turner, Leeds, and Greene have a combined population of somewhat under 5000 people spread over a considerable area. The area is economically depressed by national standard but not seriously so. This rural, reactionary community is not particularly receptive to even mild expressions of protest from the peace movement. Prevailing attitude Nixon is doing everything he can, it's only decent to let him alone—after all, he's the one with all the information.' On the whole, the students are more sympathetic, but not interested in getting involved. When we distributed a leaflet on the Cuba project earlier this year, many students were afraid to let their parents find out they had a copy. So—we obviously have to move gently and try to put people in a frame of mind which will allow them to *listen to what we have to say*, before we can hope to build up support . . . If we can only avoid shocking them too much, there is hope that we can stir them to think about what we have to say, because for all their conservatism, and narrowness, they are an honest bunch who are not afraid to use their minds."

* * *

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST WEST PAKISTAN ATROCITIES

The Saturday Times Square Vigil was called off for June 12 so that its participants and other WRLers could participate in a demonstration protesting the continuing atrocities committed by the West Pakistan army in East Pakistan (Bangla Desh).

Some 250 persons, mostly Bengalis and Indians assembled at Fifth Avenue and 59th Street, walked to the Pakistan Mission to the UN where they vigiled for a half hour and then proceeded to Hammarsjold Plaza near the UN where a rally was held. Speakers included Jay Prakash Narayan, Eqbal Ahmed, Justice Abu Sayed and Ruth Gage Colby (a longtime WRLer). Another longtime WRLer, Prafula Mukerji, was a leading organizer of the demonstration. WRL was the first U.S. organization to picket the Pakistan Mission—on April 20.

One of the aims of the protest was to stop the U.S. from continuing to ship armaments to Pakistan. In India a number of congressmen have demonstrated at the U.S. Embassy on this issue. At present there are in India more than 12 million East Pakistan refugees who cannot return to their country for fear of being killed by the Pakistan army.

"Oklahoma's WRL is working with other peace groups to bring nonviolence, through both direct action and theory, to Oklahomans," writes Joel Cohen. "We have organized demonstrations, community dinners and we are putting together a People's Library. We are working with war tax resistance, high school resistance and the People's Peace Treaty. Work has been slow because we still are bringing people together and building our action group. So far, the people have not been very responsive. The Oklahoma Highway Patrol, due to higher government officials, has been very repressive.

"We have circulated the Treaty in high schools, universities, and shopping centers, but we are still having trouble in building a general awareness of the Treaty and its potential. The People's Peace Treaty has been a main demand in three demonstrations but has never been mentioned in the media.

"Most people involved in our actions and community work have been students. We are working on involving adults through actions and leaflets. A few adults have participated in working with the Treaty but very few actually join us in demonstrations.

"Future plans center around a statewide nonviolence seminar and creative attempts at building a sense of alternative community in Oklahoma."

Bringing the Women Together

by Wendy Schwartz

The time has come for us women within WRL to assert our rights as equals of the men who, for all practical purposes, control the organization. Though in the past I've unequivocably rebelled against the idea of individual interest groups within the peace movement, it has become increasingly apparent that unless we women begin to act autonomously our voices will not be heard and our ideas will not be developed. One need only scan the names of people who comprise movement steering and executive committees to see that we women play a much smaller role than our numbers in membership ranks merit.

Though WRL has not stooped to Stokely Carmichael'slevel by Though WRL has not stooped to Stokely Carmichael's level by suggesting that the best position for women is prone, nevertheless, the League somehow does not find it inconsistent with its other basically humane policies to keep us chained to desks. We women are, fortunately, beginning to play a more significant role in WRL policy—a third of the new executive committee is female (we are still in the minority, but the percentage gap is closing), and there finally is a woman staff member in the national office who participates (with dubious success I must admit) in policy-making decisions. The League then is advancing slowly, and gradually beginning to recognize the existence of women in the movement. How odd, though, that there was never a reluctance to give staff or advisory positions to black (or homosexuals or other minority people), while women unabashedly have been allowed to remain in the background. Three women founded WRL, and during World War 2 the office was staffed largely by women, but little notice has been given in the past to the contributions of women pacifists. We hope, though, to break tradition by giving a well-rounded sense of feminine radical heritage in the 1972 calendar, where we will highlight the accomplishments of women in the peace and social justice movements. And perhaps, too, we will provide a departure point from which we women can move on to even more significant action. But we still must continue to elevate ourselves within our own organization.

Pacifism and Feminism

It has been difficult for many pacifists to accept the general women's liberation movement and to actively support its programs. The idea of separatism is contradictory to our basically integrationist philosophy and the women's movement is clearly not nonviolent in orientation. Women's literature often urges "arming oneself against the (male) oppressor" and learning karate for self-defense. But if the women's movement at large is guilty of bad politics, then pacifist women bear guilt of another type because we have not gotten together to create alternative programs to the ones we cannot accept. We must demonstrate that pacifism and feminism are not mutually exclusive, that our power and identity is not hinged on our ability to physically incapacitate a man. And similarly we must inculcate many of the basic values of the women's movement into WRL's nonviolent direct action programs to insure not only our own freedom but to make the League responsive to the needs of all constituencies.

While at one time the inability of women to credibly advocate draft resistance was an excuse to prevent women from doing fieldwork, the creative expansion of pacifist program has made draft refusal only one of many resistance techniques. And the others do not have sex restrictions. There is no reason why women can't serve equally well as organizers. In fact, the low-key approach to movement work many of us have developed as a result of our dealings with overbearing men might be just the right technique for relating to novice local groups. The talent that women have at organizing, usually cultivated by society so we can best serve our families, can be easily and successfully redirected to movement work.

Women in WRL

The first thing for League women to do is to consciously work with our sisters who show an interest in movement activities. We must encourage them to perform a variety of jobs in the movement. The time for women to serve solely as secretaries of groups has to be past forever. In the national office we must try to train volunteers (male volunteers, too, of course) to do more creative work so their sense of self-importance won't hinge upon the number of envelopes they stuff per minute and so the League itself will have more competent people to draw on for organizational work. (And if training volunteers means that staff people will have to do filing duty more frequently, it will be just one of our contributions to the growth of the movement.)

Twice in the last year we League women have attempted to get ourselves together. The first time the group disbanded after about six meetings because we were unable to find a focus. The group that's presently meeting is still searching for direction, and while it's quite possible the women will find a purpose, it's already obvious that the group's relation to the League and its problems is tenuous at best. But I still believe that we women of War Resisters League must get together to caucus in order to have our presence felt, be it in a group associated with the national office or in ones coming out of our local chapters. It's not enough for us to just involve ourselves in the women's movement generally, and it's not enough to just participate in the programs the male leaders of the League have created—we must apply ourselves as women to the League and maximize the inherent abilities we have that can benefit the League.

By bringing women and our feminine consciousness to WRL we will be introducing new organizing avenues. Not only will there be a fresh cadre of people to draw on, but the League will be able to expand its program of nonviolent direct action and theory to include areas that pertain directly to women. And even more important than the specific contributions an increased number of involved women in the League will make, are the subtle changes of consciousness bound to occur in the people presently active. It is one thing for people in the League to give lip-service to the cause of equal rights, but the real proof of our lack of prejudice will be in our ability to overcome the emotional barriers that in the past have prevented us from dealing fairly with women. It is only when we can accept in our hearts and our minds (and I speak here to both men and women) the equality of women that we will be able to say the people in WRL truly embrace all the principles the League has stood for since its inception.

Wendy Schwartz is preparing an action outline for women that will soon be available from the national office. Please write for one if you'd like it; it's free, but some money for postage would be appreciated.

XUM

Four Months, 18,000 Miles Later

by Igal Roodenko

When the idea of a cross-country tour first occurred to me last winter there were three good reasons for it. (1) There was need, I felt, for a change in emphasis in our anti-war work: until well into the Nixon era we were faced with indifference throughout much of the land, but in the last year or so it seemed that we had to deal increasingly with the growing frustration within the movement. There must, by now, be millions who have to some extent participated in anti-war work and who "retired" with a sense that nothing works. I felt that after thirty years of active radical pacifism I might have something to say about longrange commitments.

(2) The growing emphasis on large demonstrations once or twice a year, in Washington and San Francisco, tended to play down the importance of local grass-roots work.

(3) Membership in WRL had in the past few years spread from a few major cities into many parts of the country. I felt that personal, face-to-face meeting with many of our people would strengthen our sense of kinship and the concepts of radical pacifism.

There were a number of ideas I tried to develop as a way of countering frustration. If the war in southeast Asia is no accident but an inherent expression of the American culture —and we've been saying this for years and we believe it— then it is clear that nothing short of a political and social transformation of this nation can prevent recurring Vietnams. Can anyone expect, then, that a few years of organizing, of demonstrating, can undo that which had been building up in the American culture over several centuries? Can we really hope that the walls will come tumbling down when we can get another million, or two million demonstrators to surround the Pentagon?

Accentuate The Positive

Merely asking these questions, however, was not enough. By themselves they lead to further hopelessness. It was important, therefore, to point out some of the encouraging changes that are already taking place in our land.

First, the growing resistance to the draft by who knows how many tens and hundreds of thousands of young men: men who don't register, men who find all sorts of legal and illegal means of avoiding the draft, and men who simply ignore it. The fact that the largest part of these men never assume the traditional roles of "principled" resisters proves only further that what we have been doing and saying over the years has begun to permeate the culture. Many men may indeed go into the army if caught—but no official dealing action than there is an urging to self awareness: Look at make good soldiers. Moreover, the military forces themselves have become almost totally demoralized.

Second, and related to draft resistance, is the growing commitment within the counter culture to changes at the most basic and personal level. This is not to ignore some of the negative and destructive qualities within the youth movement, but to welcome the growing recognition that social transformation cannot be forced from the top down, but must start with the individual in his most personal relationships.

Third, the growing awareness of self, not only as exemplified by Third World, women's and gay Liberation movements, but within the heartland of middle America. This is best revealed by the actions associated with Ralph Nader. What is significant here is that there is less calling for government action than there is an urging to self awareness: Look at what you are putting into your mouths and lungs, and resist! The meaning I give to this consciousness raising is that it increases resistance to all manipulators—bosses and bureaucrats and pace-setters and draftboards of all kinds.

Fourth, within all the professional and academic disciplines there is a growing insistance that intellectual integrity demands dealing with the real problems that are threatening humankind today. There are not many professional groups or journals left in which there is not a growing demand that the tragic inadequacies of American society be faced.

Fifth, the growing criticism of the war within the establishment itself. It is not that senators have joined the Society of Friends, but their judgment of where public opinion is heading is surely more acute than ours. Their professional lives depend on accurately guessing in which direction the public is moving.

What these trends in American society indicate is that, although the war is still raging, the impact of the movement on American society has been significant. By no means does this mean that the future can take care of itself. But it does mean that there is enough openness, enough flexibility, enough pragmatism in this country to make possible that more human community for which we are striving.

End the Draft

By the time we reentered the United States from Canada in mid-April Congressional action on the draft had become a political issue. I didn't think that there was a major chance of defeating it, but for the first time in a quarter-century there could be more than a token voice or two within the Senate in opposition. Throughout the midwest for the following six weeks I spoke repeatedly about organizing public action to oppose Nixon's authority to conscript and in support of the Senate filibuster.

Perhaps the most dramatic action undertaken was at Bethel College, Newton, Kansas, from which a group of fifteen students walked 140 miles in eight days to the state capitol to promote public opposition. The important thing here was not so much to plead with political leaders as to move through the countryside, past rural high schools and churches and shopping centers, urging our fellow citizens to speak up. Three fourths of America was opposed to the draft; it was important to carry that statistic to the Senate. Grass roots organizing.

With but one exception, we met with warm welcomes and considerable agreement. The one exception was a radio phone-in show in which several callers assured me that the New York Times was a communist sheet. But there were 35-40 other radio and TV programs and newspaper interviews which were courteous and fair. I even sensed in many of the media people a quiet, sometimes verbalized, wish that my optimism was justified.

Bob Henning, for many years active in the Syracuse-Oswego, New York, pacifist movement, accompanied me most of the way. He did all the driving (in a car lent to the League by Peter Anderheggen) and took care of all details so efficiently that I was left free to do nothing else but talk myself hoarse day after day. With his indispensable underpinning on the one hand and the warm reception everywhere on the other, I came home exhausted, but exhilerated. So much so, that I want this fall to start planning a similar trip for January through May next year. I would appreciate expression of interest in such a trip from members and friends of the League.

XUM

IMPORTANT CORRECTION

In last WRL NEWS, we carried an announcement that "According to *U.S. Bureau of Prisons* policy statement 7300.14, which went into effect February 2, anybody can write letters to federal prisoners and they can write to anybody."

Acting on complaints of three of our members whose letters to prisoners at Danbury were returned, we investigated and found out that this policy statement was issued NOT by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons but by *Lewisburg-Allenwood* and applies only to those two prisons. However, it since has been extended to *Alderson* (the women's prison), *Ashland* and *Petersburg*.

Protests to the warden of Danbury have brought replies that he is sticking to the old policy of limiting correspondence to persons on prisoners' approved correspondence list, relatives plus four non-relatives (with the exception of holiday cards at Christmas with nothing written on them other than the sender's signature).

WRL Chairman Igal Roodenko has written U.S. Prisons Director Norman Carlson urging that he take the initiative in extending the Lewisburg-Allenwood policy throughout the federal prison system. Other WRLers, particularly those with personal friends in federal prisons should follow suit. The address—simply, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.

New YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK poster showing a military cemetery with a $5 bill in foreground, available from War Tax Resistance (same address as WRL) ..... 50c.

ENROLLMENT BLANK

Send to War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, N. Y., N.Y. 10012

WAR IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY.
I THEREFORE AM DETERMINED NOT TO SUPPORT ANY KIND OF WAR, INTERNATIONAL OR CIVIL, AND TO STRIVE FOR THE REMOVAL OF ALL THE CAUSES OF WAR

signature

address

city

state *zip code*

ELLSBERG AT WRI CONFERENCE

Present at the 1969 WRI Triennial Conference to observe the world pacifist movement was Dr. Daniel Ellsberg. He was just finishing a long career within the government. He had started down a long, painful and courageous road that would lead him finally to making the secret Pentagon Papers available to the New York Times and other papers. Several months before the Times began publication, Ellsberg had lunch with a member of the WRL staff and said then that he was releasing the entire top-secret story as fast as he could.

We note four observations. First, Ellsberg's decision to act is proof that A.J. Muste was correct in believing that within every man and woman there is the capacity to act as a moral person. Ellsberg's decision was a victory for all Americans but most of all, it was a great personal victory for him.

Second, those who have followed the war found little that was new in the Pentagon Papers—what we did find was confirmation from a high and official level of the statements we had been making for ten years. The Pentagon papers may become the "20th Congress of American Liberalism." At the time of Stalin's death the evidence of repression and terror within the Soviet Union was public fact, accepted by all but the most faithful Communists. When Khrushchev rose at the 20th Congress of the Soviet Party to confirm the murderous nature of Stalin's regime, it forced every Communist in the world to begin thinking, individually. In the same way, the Pentagon Papers prove that the "radicals" were right for the last ten years and that it was the government which had been lying. It will be many years before the American government will be able again to command automatic support.

Third, it is terrifying to realize how horribly wrong the best experts were. We had trusted our national destiny to the Kennedy brain trust and in the end they proved tragically in error, despite their statistics and computers.

Fourth, we are amused and delighted to reflect on the increasing incompetence of the government security agencies. Ellsberg had been toting top secret documents around with him for months, to Congressman and Senators, to newspaper editors, and talking about those documents to known radicals and yet the FBI knew nothing about it until the Times began publication—and then the FBI couldn't find Ellsberg himself for two full weeks and had to wait until he calmly turned himself in. We are reassured to note that the secret police are increasingly ineffective.

National WRL Conference

Hold the Labor Day Weekend (September 3-6) for the national WRL conference. It will be held somewhere in the south, but the exact location has not been determined as this issue goes to press. As soon as it is, you'll be notified through a special mailing.

WHERE WERE YOU MAYDAY?

If you haven't already gotten your veteran's badge (many WRLers have, following the notice in last WRL NEWS), send in your $1 today and you'll get the above button by return mail. All proceeds go to the Peoples Coalition to help pay off the tremendous costs of the Mayday demonstrations.

NOW IN PAPERBACK

2 collections of essays formerly available only in expansive hardcover editions:

WE HAVE BEEN INVADED BY THE 21st CENTURY by David McReynolds $1.25

REVOLUTION & EQUILIBRIUM by Barbara Deming $3.95

NONVIOLENCE — AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY, just published by Cornell University Libraries. Available by sending 10c to Marie Gast—Publications, 015 John M. Olin Library, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.

SUMMER DOLLARS

Our contributors usually remember WRL during the fall, winter and spring. This is beautiful, we do appreciate it, we do thank you (even though we don't have sufficient staff to send individual thank you letters).

But comes summer and people understandibly want to (and need to) get away from it all for awhile—and WRL temporarily is forgotten. But we do need summer dollars. A business reply envelope is enclosed.

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